



**GMAR**  
Greater Milwaukee Association of  
**REALTORS®**  
Est. 1892

March 15, 2011

Milwaukee Common Council Members  
City Hall, Room 205  
200 E. Wells Street  
Milwaukee, WI 53202

Re: Property damage by "scrappers"

Dear Alderman Witkowski, 

As you are well aware, the number of foreclosed properties in the City of Milwaukee has created many problems across the city. One of those problems relates to the destruction of homes by "scrappers."

In the Fall of 2008, the GMAR created a Real Estate Owned (REO) Task Force comprised of approximately a dozen REALTOR® brokers who have been meeting regularly to discuss the REO market and solutions to problems they encounter with various properties.

One common theme when they talk about how quickly a vacant home is ruined is the issue of scrappers who are stripping homes (stripping them of furnaces, plumbing, electrical components, copper, etc.). They feel that if the scrap yards are monitored more closely and that the scrappers are prohibited from bringing certain materials to the scrap yards for monetary compensation, damage to vacant and foreclosed homes would be reduced. We are looking for assistance in regulation of the scrap yards.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at 414-778-4929 or [mjs@gmar.ws](mailto:mjs@gmar.ws).

Thank you.

Sincerely,

  
Marne Stück  
Government Affairs Director

Cc: Members of the Milwaukee Common Council  
Mayor Tom Barrett  
Commissioner Art Dahlberg, Dept. of Neighborhood Services



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